(6) Yes.

(7) He is related to the present Diwan of Cochin being his son-in-law.

Sub-Inspector B. V. Thomas.

142. Mr. M. K. Raman.— Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(1) whether it has received in 1104 any printed communication from the Christians of Ollur, with allegations of certain misconduct on the part of the Sub-Inspector, Mr. B. V. Thomas; if so, will the Government kindly place the paper on the Table;

(2) was any investigation made by the Commissioner of Police in regard to that matter;

(3) did the Commissioner inspect the account books referred to in the pamphlet;

(4) was any explanation taken from Mr. B. V. Thomas in regard to that matter;

(5) were any witnesses questioned by the Commissioner in his investigation; if so, were statements recorded from any of them;

(6) how was that matter disposed of?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(1) Yes; copy is placed on the Council Table.

(2) Yes.

(3) No.

(4) No.

(5) No.

(6) The allegations were found to be groundless and the matter was dropped.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner of Police get the extract of the account also?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes, a copy of the extracts of the accounts was sent to me along with the petition.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—In the investigation, was the Commissioner able to discover why such a large amount as Rs. 94-5-0 was spent for bringing the Inspector?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No, no enquiry was made to that effect.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Why was the account books not inspected by the Commissioner?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Because only a copy of the accounts was sent to me, and even in that copy there was nothing stated definitely in connection with the Sub-Inspector.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—But when did he verify that the copy was correct? Did he verify it with the original accounts?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I did not do it.

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Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner take that the extract was correct ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I conducted investigations on ths assumption that it might be correct.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—In the investigation did the Commissioner find out whether the various items shown in the accounts were correct ? I find here several items of payments to the Sub-Inspector and the Police Officers.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It is nowhere stated that it is spent for the Police Officers or it was actually given to the Police Officers. It might have found its way into the pockets of the *Kaikars*. The entry was made in such general terms that it was difficult to make an enquiry.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Why did not the Commissioner take any explanation from the officer concerned ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It was thought not necessary.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner examine any witnesses in connection with the enquiry ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Not exactly a formal examination of witnesses. The Ollur Church Parish was divided into two fighting factions, one was Pope's party and the other Bishop's party. All these parties used to come and tell me one against the other. On a discussion with them I found that there was nothing serious in the matter. It was only after all a fight between the two sections. Somehow there was some impression that this Sub-Inspector was siding with the Bishop's party rightly or wrongly and that has caused all this mischief. The cause why I never thought of conducting any proper investigation was that the petition was an anonymous one.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Were there persons who spoke in support of the allegations contained in the anonymous petition ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Nobody. They dared not.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did anybody speak in favour of the allegations contained in the petition ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There was nobody to speak in favour of that.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Has the Commissioner recorded in writing any statements given to him verbally by the persons of whom he enquired ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner himself go to the spot or depute somebody ?

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Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I did not go to the spot.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Who was the officer deputed ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Nobody was deputed.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Where was this investigation conducted ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The parties came to me.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—At Trichur ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—May I know whether the allegations contained in the petition were not of a serious nature ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I do not think.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Were there not allegations in the petition that the Sub-Inspector concerned was receiving bribes and that he was mis-behaving ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I am sorry that I have not got the petition with me.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—A copy is here; it was plated on the Table. It is clearly stated in it that the conduct of the Inspector was 'so alarming' and all that. There are further allegations also.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Then it was thought not necessary to enquire.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Does the Commissioner say that the allegations that the Sub-Inspector received bribes and all that are not serious ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Not exaetly not serious. If the allegations were made by responsible men, then they could have been enquired into. It is only an anonymous petition. And so it was thought that no enquiry was necessary.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner find out whether these items in the extract of the account, "പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർക്കും മറ്റും കൊടുത്തതാണ്".

were true and whether the Commissioner did make any enquiry ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The items of expenditure were so carefully worded that they could be taken to mean in any way. Further it does not clearly say that the amounts were given to the Inspector or to the Police.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—There is a clear entry here "പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർക്ക്".

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is the words "മറ്റും" there.

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Mr. M. K. Raman.—There are many entries :—

അച്ഛന്റെ വാല്യക്കാരനെ തല്ലിയതിനു Police Inspector മറ്റും കൊണ്ടുവന്നതിനു Rs. 94 5 0

പൊലീസിന്നു ചിലവു Rs. 1 14 0

do ,, 1 14 0

do ,, 6 8 0

പൊല്ലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ കൂടി മേപ്പട്ട് ,, 8 12 0

ഉറപ്പിക്കുവാൻ

Are these not clear statements ?

President.—It may be for refreshment to the Police or some other thing.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I want to know whether the Commissioner upon investigation was able to find out if there is any truth in this.

President.—The question asked is, there are so many entries showing payment to the police. Whether he made any investigation at all with regard to these various items and whether he considered those items so trivial ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The expenses might have been for the conveyance charges of the police to that place, or for things like that. It is quite natural.

President.—You did not think it worth while to make an enquiry ?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Is it so with regard to this entry for Rs. 94—5—0 ?

President.—That is certainly a big item. Any reasonable answer for that ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Being an anonymous petition, we placed no truth in the allegations.

President.—Now there is an expenditure noted down in a book relating to the church. It is not a private individual. An entry for Rs. 94 and odd is a large expenditure and there must be something sinister about it. Therefore, an enquiry is necessary.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I have not investigated in that way.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner think that any enquiry at all was necessary; because it was an anonymous petition whether he thought that some enquiry was necessary or whether he thought it was not worthwhile to make an enquiry ?

President.—You might say what is in your mind. Nobody can take you to task for not forming a correct judgment. We all men err, in our business. You must explain what is your mental attitude with regard to this matter.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I will just read the communication. That will explain the whole matter.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—My question is whether the Com-

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missioner on receipt of this petition considered that any enquiry at all was necessary?

President.—These are very inconvenient questions.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It is admitted that he has made some enquiry. The suggestion is, since he has himself received the anonymous petition, was it not an incentive for him to go and inspect the case himself?

Whether there was any objection for the Commissioner of Police to go to the locality and investigate?

President.—It is only four miles from Trichur and why could you not have gone there and made personal enquiry in this matter calling both sides and trying to understand the respective positions and all that?

Mr P. Nilakanta Menon.—My impression was this. The place was divided into two factions, and that is why I did not think it necessary to go to the place itself to get any particular information. All these people were coming to me and telling stories against each other.

President.—You could have gone straight to the place and satisfied yourself that there was no case to take further proceedings. That could have been done.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Was there any particular reason for the Commissioner not to go to the locality for investigating the matter?

President.—As you know, there were the Bishop's party and the other party there and these were coming to him and representing stories against each other. He thought he need not bother himself.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—If there is a faction, there will be more in these things.

President.—The Commissioner did not go to the locality because, even if he were to go there, he could not have investigated properly on account of this faction.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did these people come to the Commissioner of their own accord or were they sent for by the Commissioner of Police?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—They came of their own accord.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Did the Commissioner think that even an explanation was not necessary from the officer concerned?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. Because the entry dated 19th January 1928 shows an expenditure of Rs. 17—8—0 for presenting a petition to the Commissioner. I could not understand for what this was spent. So I thought these entries were meaningless and that they must have been done to benefit others.

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President.—Will they not be able to say that the entry for Rs. 94 and odd is a correct one? We spent Rs. 94 and odd for bringing the police. Some motor cars might have been arranged for taking the petition to the Commissioner. Who can vouchsafe for the correctness of the expenditure? Simply assume that is correct. Even assuming that is correct how can we proceed upon that without knowing whether the expenditure has been really incurred? Who knows all these things?

143. **Mr. M. K. Raman.**— Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(a) whether there was any complaint from the constables of Kunnamkulam in the year 1104, that the Sub-Inspector Mr. B. V. Thomas temporarily misappropriated their pay for a certain month in the year 1104; if so, did the Government enquire into the matter;

(b) will the Government be pleased to inform whether it was the Sub-Inspector who obtained and cashed the bill for the pay of the constables; and if so, the date on which the bill was cashed and the date on which pay was actually distributed to the constables;

(c) were any statements taken from the constables or Head constables of Kunnamkulam station in connection with this enquiry;

(d) how was this matter disposed of;

(e) were there similar complaints against the same Sub-Inspector while he was at Trichur in the beginning of 1104?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.— (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). No answer is necessary in view of that to part (a).

(e) No.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—To my question 'whether there was any complaint from the constables' the answer is 'no.' The question was whether there was any petition or any communication addressed to the Commissioner with regard to this matter. My question was specific.

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The answer is given there. 'No.'

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Whether there were petitions from anybody else, any information or any communication with regard to that matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—With regard to (b), may I know whether the Sub-Inspector obtained and cashed the bill for the pay of the constables during any month in the year 1104?

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